(x) Land Development and reclamation of wasteland or degraded land with special emphasis on ecological improvement in hill and desert areas.

(xi) Augmenting existing ground. water resources through micro-level ecological planning involving afforestation, soil and moisture conservation and water management.

(xii) Construction of rural bank buildings, godowns for storage or inputs, community worksheds for target group beneficiaries, community centre, panchayatghars, DWCRA centres, market yards in areas with concentration of population of weaker sections etc. and works which help in raising the resources for local panchayats through rents, market fees etc. so as to add to the overall resource availability for maintenance at the local level, may however be taken up in preference to others.

(xiii) Works of a purely social and community nature such as, dispensaries, panchayatghars, community centres, creches, anganwabalwadis etc.

(xiv) The primary school buildings will be constructed only in these revenue villages which have sanctioned schools without buildings of their own. The building will have two large rooms of approximately 30 sq. metres each with a deep verandah and lavatories/urinal separately for boys and girls in a separate corner. If any construction work is proposed to add to or expand the existing school buildings, it would be limited to bridging the gap between the existing buidling and the two room buiding envisaged under these guidelines.

Digging of new ranney wells in Delhi

1242. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new manney wells of 2.5 MGD each were proposed to be dug in certain areas in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when these wells are likely to be commissioned;

(c) whether Government have received any expert opinion regarding non-viability of these wells and misappropriation of huge amount of funds; and

(d) if so, whether Government have examined the matter; if so, what are the details thereof, stating the steps taken/propsed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Five ranney wells along the right marginal bund are proposed to be constructed and work is in progress in 4 such wells. These are likely to be completed by 1990.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Water from ranney wells is supplied after chlorination directly and is cheaper than the water from conventional water treatment plants which require the use of alum and sophisticated equipment.

Interference in the working of AIR and Doordarshan

1243. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Times of India of 1-6-89 regarding interference in the AIR and Doordarshan News coverage by manoeuvring of news on Opposition Statements and giving of directive to give publicity on the achievements made by the ruling party; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All India Radio and Doordarshan cover important news and current affairs events in a fair, balanced and objective manner without promoting interests of any party. AIR and Doordarshan strictly follow the news policy and guidelines laid down by the Media Advisory Committee. The report which appeared in the Times of India of 1st June, 1989 is not based on facts. There is no inierference in the news coverage of AIR/TV. Both AIR and Doordarshan enjoy functional autonomy in all professional matters.

Progress of Babrala Fertiliser Plant

1244. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whehert it is a fact that a gas-based fertilizer plant is going to be established at Babrala in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the progress of the completion of the above plant; and

(c) by when the above plant is likely to start production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The progress in implementation of the project made by the promoters is indicated below:—

(i) the promoters, their shareholders and associates have subcribed Rs.. 85 crores to the share capital.

(ii) the land has been leased to the promoters.

(iii) the engineering contracts have been approved by Government.

(iv) the financial institutions and banks have sanctioned a rupee loan of Rs. 292 crores.

(v) the foreign exchange sources have been approved.

(vi) environmental clearance has been accorded; and

(vii) DGTD clearance for the import of capital goods has been obtained.

(c) The plant is expected to start production in 42 months from the 'zero date' which will commence after M/s. Tata Fertilisers Ltd. merge with M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd., for which legal and procedural steps are underway.

Clearance of backlog of jobs for handicapped persons in the country

1245. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge backlog of jobs for the handicapped in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details and what steps have been taken by Government to clear the backlog of vacancies for the handicapped and the number of proposals announced for the welfare of the handicapped persons;

(c) whether Government propose to bring legislation for the welfare of the handicapped; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposals to be included in the proposed legislation?